

What are Libraries Doing for Those Experiencing Homelessness?

In the Main chat box, share what services your library is already offering that may be important to patrons experiencing homelessness.

- Library is a naturally safe place and therefore naturally becomes a day shelter for people.
- Access to wifi and computers = access to connection to family, job applications, access to resources, etc.
- Community access point – a place to meet others.
- The library welcomes and accepts all, our mission is to be accessible to everyone.

Denver Public Library just hired a social worker.

- Remove barriers to community services and resources for people
- To provide support
- Intervene in any mental health emergencies
- Build relationships with customers
- Train and support staff in Mental Health First Aide, Trauma Informed Training, Vicarious Trauma

Other Libraries in the Country

- San Francisco
 - Social Worker and Peers
- Dallas
 - Social Workers; "Coffee and Conversation"
- Washington DC
 - Social Worker
- Philadelphia
 - Bathroom Attendants and Coffee Shop
- Edmonton, Alberta Canada
 - Very Robust Homeless Services Program
- Many others across the country are either hiring a SW or coordinating with the area Community Mental Health Programs